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LB 285

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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Redfield, to open on your amendment, AM1739, to the committee amendments to LB 285.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. AM1739 puts a date. The bill that we have before us says that we're going to take LB 1085, that was passed last year, and we're just going to make it permanent. Now, that's honest. That is honest. But we have looked at our construct, we have looked down the road, and we have seen a hole of \$804 million, we have looked at state formulas that create holes that grow bigger and bigger with time. And when are we going to look creatively at the infrastructure that we are building? And when are we going to really put some creativity into solving the problem and creating a tax infrastructure in the state of Nebraska that is fair and equitable and, heaven forbid, even simple to administer? The hope with the amendment of AM1739 is that you would say, we will put a date certain in when, by that time, we're going to have to look at this again and we're going to have to ask ourselves if this is the kind of tax policy we want in the state of Nebraska. Do we want to just keep going back to the same people that we've hit before, and keep hitting them again and again and again with ever higher rates? Do we want to do the heavy lifting today for a Legislature in the future, to make it easier for them to spend more and more of our citizens' tax dollars? So all this does is it says that the rate in LB 285 will continue until January 1 of 2006. You don't have to do this. You could say, no, we're going to make these rates permanent, at least until a Legislature changes them again. Or you could say, we're going to put a point in time where we're going to have to decide whether we want to continue it or whether we want to change it. It's a time to look back, and a time to study, and a time to consciously make a choice, instead of tripping along the same path that we've been going along. Now, I think that's good. I think it's good in a business to go back to your business plan and see if it's actually working to the benefit of the business. I think it's good for a family, an individual, to go back to their budget and see if it actually meets their needs. And I think it's good for government to go back and assess. And while that could happen